



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCRIPPS HEALTH SETTLES LAWSUIT ALLEGING UNLAWFUL DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL WASTE

San Diego, CA (March 1, 2001) — Scripps Health has agreed to pay \$27,412 in civil penalties and costs to settle an environmental protection case involving illegal disposal of medical waste in the Miramar landfill.

The San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit filed the civil complaint in San Diego Superior Court today. The complaint alleges that on two occasions — on April 9, 1999, and again on December 29, 2000 — Scripps Health unlawfully disposed of medical waste, including a section of umbilical cord; several clear plastic sacks containing fluid blood; blood-stained surgical items; and scissors, intravenous tubing, and other medical instruments contaminated with blood. The waste was discovered at the Miramar landfill during a random load check by City of San Diego inspectors. The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department and the County's Department of Environmental Health investigated the incident. Scripps Health cooperated in the investigation.

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Scripps Health has agreed to the terms of the Superior Court judgment, which prohibits Scripps from engaging in similar misconduct in the future. Scripps has also agreed to provide additional employee training, focusing on the proper management and disposal of medical waste.

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